Miss AMERICA

"DANGER TRAIL!"

CHAPTER XIII

THE STORY THUS FAR...

ON THE TRAIL OF A MICROFILM ON WHICH IS PHOTOGRAPHED THE FORMULA FOR A SUN-RAY CONDENSER MORE POWERFULLY DESTRUCTIVE THAN THE ATOM BOMB, AND SOUGHT BY MANY ENEMY HANDS, THE DARING **MISS AMERICA** IS MADE CAPTIVE IN AN ABANDONED MINE IN BUENOS AIRES ALONG WITH COUNTERSPY TED BANNING! THEIR CAPTOR IS **REX**, A RUTHLESS ESCAPED NAZI LEADER INTENT ON BUILDING UP A NEW WAR MACHINE FOR WORLD CONQUEST! THE TRAPPED PAIR IS DOOMED TO A HORRIBLE DEATH!

FAREWELL! I'VE STARTED THE CAR! WHEN IT SMASHES INTO THE WALL AT THE END OF THE TRACK, IT'S THE END OF YOU! HA! HA!
YOU WON'T LAUGH LONG! YOU'LL BE FOUND OUT!
DON'T BE ABSURD! THE BLAST WON'T GIVE US AWAY! IT WILL BE SO FAR BELOW THE SURFACE, THE SOUND WILL BE MUFFLED! BESIDES, THESE ARE ONLY TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS! WE'RE MOVING ON AT ONCE! SO IT IS INDEED FAREWELL!
AS THE CAR OF DOOM GATHERS SPEED THRU THE DARKNESS.....
SOMETHING'S ON THE FLOOR, BANNING! IT LOOKS LIKE....YES, IT IS A PIECE OF A SHARP-EDGED TOOL!
WE'RE LEAVING THE FIRST LEVEL! WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE!
IF I CAN ONLY GET TO IT! I CAN JUST MANAGE A HALF TURN TO THIS SIDE.... THERE! I CAN JUST MAKE IT! MUST HURRY! I PUSHED IT UP THE WALL WITH MY FOOT!
WITH THE TIPS OF HER FINGERS, MISS AMERICA STRUGGLES TO RAISE THE SHARP BIT OF METAL!
ONE CORNER LOOKS DULLED. IT WON'T CUT! I'LL TAKE IT IN MY TEETH!
SNAP!
2.

WITH NUMBED FINGERS, *MISS AMERICA* WORKS FRANTICALLY TO FREE HER SHOULDERS AS THE SPEEDING CAR RACES EVER FASTER DOWN THE LOWER LEVEL TOWARD A DREADFUL DOOM!

THE WALL'S IN SIGHT! THERE'S NOT MUCH TIME!

SLOUGHING OFF HER OWN FETTERS, **MISS AMERICA** SWIFTLY FREES BANNING - AND....

SECONDS LATER, A SHARP BLAST!

BOOM

....FOLLOWED BY THE THUNDEROUS ROAR OF FALLING ROCK!

WATCH OUT! A CAVE-IN FROM ALL SIDES!

TRAPPED!

OUR ONLY CHANCE IS DIGGING OUT! BUT BEWARE OF FALLING ROCK! IT MAY CAUSE A NEW CAVE-IN. THESE WALLS HAVE NO SUPPORT!

THAT'S THE TROUBLE! BUT WHAT ABOUT THESE STEEL TIES? MAYBE WE CAN USE THEM!
THERE'S NOTHING ELSE WE CAN DO!
A SHORT WHILE LATER!
THAT SHOULD HOLD! AND WITH PIECES OF WRECKED CAR FOR SCOOPS, WE CAN DIG AWAY!
IF WE CAN ONLY GET OUT IN TIME TO FOIL OUR ENEMIES!
MEANWHILE, IN THE CITY HOSPITAL.....
HOW DID I GET HERE? A FINE THING, ELISE WINTERS IN A WARD! LET ME THINK.... I'D LEFT THE FARMHOUSE, I WAS DRIVING.....SUDDENLY EVERYTHING WENT BLANK-!
NURSE! NURSE!
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN HERE? WHAT TIME IS IT?
FOUR P.M. YOU'VE BEEN HERE SINCE LAST NIGHT, AUTO ACCIDENT CASE -- YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS... AWOKE FOR A FEW MOMENTS THIS MORNING...
.....THEN LAPSED AGAIN! FRANKLY YOU HAD US ALL PUZZLED — NO IDENTIFICATION, AND THAT RECENTLY DRESSED BULLET WOUND IN YOUR SHOULDER!
I'M FOND OF HUNTING. I WAS CLEANING MY GUN, IT WENT OFF ACCIDENTALLY!
INCIDENTALLY, WHERE ARE MY CLOTHES?
IN ONE OF THE LOCKERS, 38, I BELIEVE, THROUGH THAT DOOR. WE'VE KEPT EVERYTHING. I'LL HAVE THE DOCTOR LOOK AT YOU NOW!
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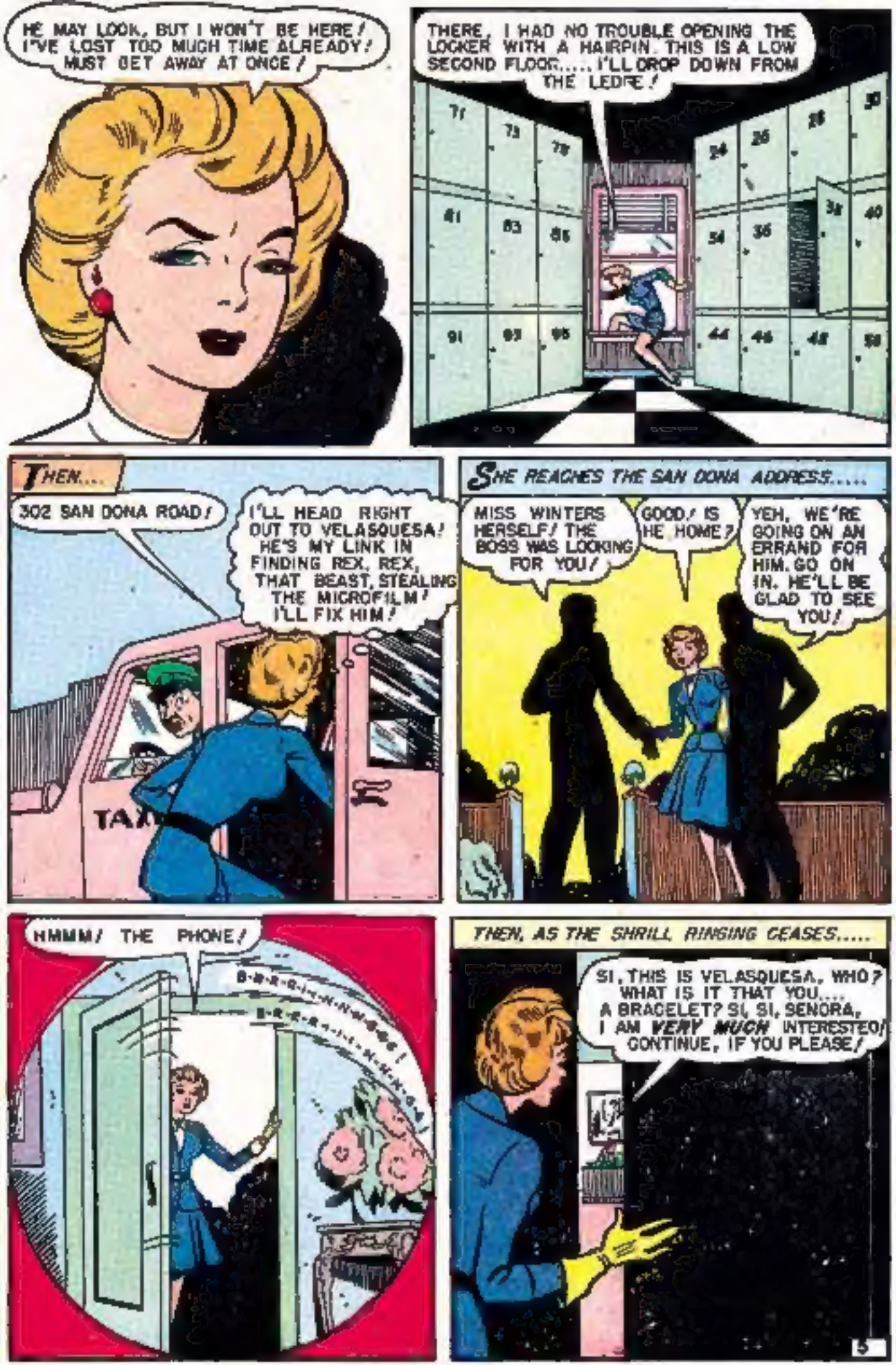
HE MAY LOOK, BUT I WON'T BE HERE! I'VE LOST TOO MUCH TIME ALREADY! MUST GET AWAY AT ONCE!
THERE, I HAD NO TROUBLE OPENING THE LOCKER WITH A HAIRPIN. THIS IS A LOW SECOND FLOOR..... I'LL DROP DOWN FROM THE LEDGE!
THEN....
302 SAN DONA ROAD!
I'LL HEAD RIGHT OUT TO VELASQUESA! HE'S MY LINK IN FINDING REX, REX, THAT BEAST, STEALING THE MICROFILM! I'LL FIX HIM!
SHE REACHES THE SAN DONA ADDRESS.....
MISS WINTERS HERSELF! THE BOSS WAS LOOKING FOR YOU!
GOOD! IS HE HOME?
YEH, WE'RE GOING ON AN ERRAND FOR HIM. GO ON IN. HE'LL BE GLAD TO SEE YOU!
HMMM! THE PHONE!
B-R-R-R-I-I-N-N-N-G!
B-R-R-R-I-I-I-N-N-N-G!
THEN, AS THE SHRILL RINGING CEASES.....
SI, THIS IS VELASQUESA. WHO? WHAT IS IT THAT YOU.... A BRACELET? SI, SI, SENORA, I AM VERY MUCH INTERESTED! CONTINUE, IF YOU PLEASE!
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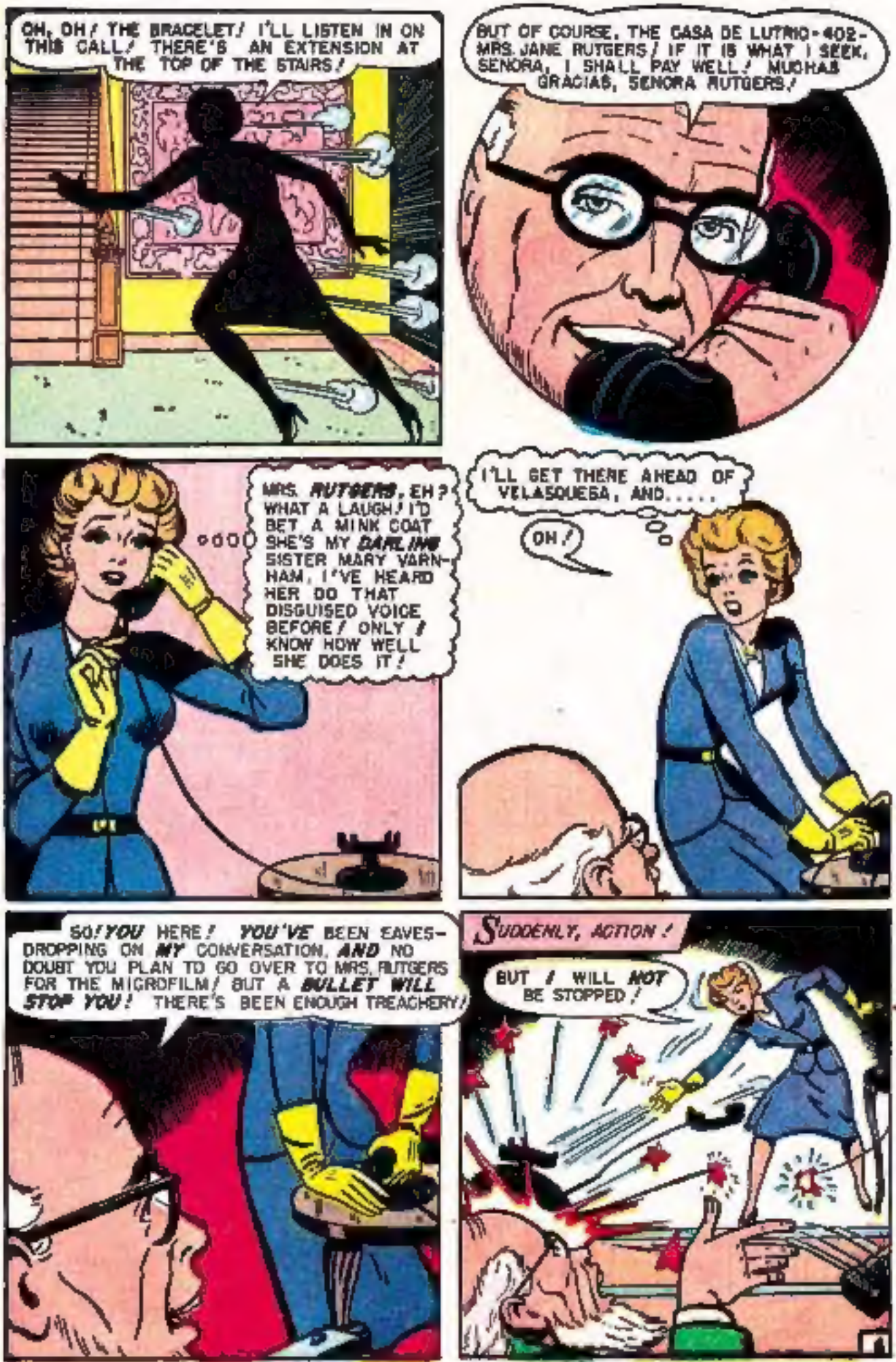
OH, OH! THE BRACELET! I'LL LISTEN IN ON THIS CALL! THERE'S AN EXTENSION AT THE TOP OF THE STAIRS!
BUT OF COURSE, THE CASA DE LUTRIO-402-MRS. JANE RUTGERS! IF IT IS WHAT I SEEK, SENORA, I SHALL PAY WELL! MUCHAS GRACIAS, SENORA RUTGERS!
MRS. RUTGERS, EH? WHAT A LAUGH! I'D BET A MINK COAT SHE'S MY DARLING SISTER MARY VARNHAM. I'VE HEARD HER DO THAT DISGUISED VOICE BEFORE! ONLY I KNOW HOW WELL SHE DOES IT!
I'LL GET THERE AHEAD OF VELASQUEZA, AND.....
OH!
SO! YOU HERE! YOU'VE BEEN EAVESDROPPING ON MY CONVERSATION, AND NO DOUBT YOU PLAN TO GO OVER TO MRS. RUTGERS FOR THE MICROFILM! BUT A BULLET WILL STOP YOU! THERE'S BEEN ENOUGH TREACHERY!
SUDDENLY, ACTION!
BUT I WILL NOT BE STOPPED!

AND BACK IN THE MINE....
DUG OUT AT LAST! WE'LL HEAD BACK THE WAY WE....WE...
TED, YOU'RE HURT! YOU'RE STUMBLING! LET ME HELP!
I'M TIRED, I GUESS! I WAS TOO KEYED UP TO REALIZE BEFORE. NO FOOD SINCE THEY TOOK ME PRISONER!
YOU NEED PROPER MEDICAL SERVICES! JUST AS SOON AS WE-OH, THERE'S THE SHAFT! THAT WILL GET US UP AND OUT!
AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER....
BANNING'S BEING TAKEN CARE OF. I'M GLAD HE'S SAFE! BUT REX STILL HAS THAT NAZI EXPOSE LIST! AND THE MICROFILM FORMULA'S AT LARGE! MY ONLY BET IS VELASQUESA! REX MAY HAVE CONTACTED HIM ALREADY!
VELASQUESA? WHAT HELP CAN HE BE!
MOTIONLESS, LIFELESS, WHILE ELISE WINTERS HASTENS TO THE CASA DE LUTRIO TO GAIN POSSESSION OF THE MICROFILM!
FOLLOW THE DARING MISS AMERICA IN THE NEXT POWER-PACKED EPISODE OF THIS THRILLING ADVENTURE, IN MARVEL COMICS NO. 84!

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